



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

# School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

## NEWS 2019



Professor Carol Newman chairs a public research results meeting in Pretoria, South Africa as part of the *South Africa — Towards Inclusive Economics Development (SA-TIED) research programme*.

## Welcome from the Head of School

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our annual newsletter, my first as Head of School.

The disciplines within our School — Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology — have never been more important for understanding and informing public debate on the crucial issues of our time. Through the outstanding research and public engagement of our talented academic staff and our inspiring alumni community, our School continues to have a significant

national and global impact on public policy, business, innovation, media and academia.

Engagement with our alumni enriches all aspects of what we do. We would like to thank the many graduates who continue to support the academic life of the School.

Professor Carol Newman

[Read more: bit.ly/2019-welcome](https://bit.ly/2019-welcome)

### Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

## Digital Peacekeeping Game Launched



Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor with Garda Joan Kerrigan, Lt Col Timothy O'Brien, Head of the UN training School, Irish Defense Forces and Professor Anne Holohan.

A new digital role-playing game which will be used for training military, police and civilian peacekeepers was launched at a Soft Skills Summit at Trinity in January.

The peacekeeping game is part of the €2 million European Commission Horizon 2020 funded *Gaming for Peace* (GAP) project, being conducted by a team of researchers from Trinity's Department of Sociology and the ADAPT Centre, and led and designed by Associate Professor in Sociology Anne Holohan. The game, which improves levels of gender and cultural awareness can be downloaded locally to deliver accessible, standardized training to all military, police and civilian personnel deployed in EU conflict prevention and peace-building missions.

**Professor Anne Holohan's research and teaching interests include the inter-related topics of globalisation, social networks, organizational and institutional change, and digital technologies.**

Read more: [bit.ly/gaming-for-peace](http://bit.ly/gaming-for-peace)

## Celebrating Teaching Excellence



Provost Dr Patrick Prendergast and Dr Tara Mitchell, Assistant Professor, Economics



Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research and Ms Samantha Fazekas, Teaching Assistant, Philosophy

Congratulations to Dr Tara Mitchell, Assistant Professor in Economics and Ms Samantha Fazekas, Teaching Assistant in the Department of Philosophy, who were respectively awarded a Provost's Teaching Award and Trinity's Postgraduate Teaching Award this year.

Read more: [bit.ly/2019-teaching-awards](http://bit.ly/2019-teaching-awards)

## Major Political Philosophy Study to Examine Rights and Egalitarianism

Incoming Associate Professor in Philosophy, Adina Preda will lead a 5-year research project in political philosophy, *REAL* — 'Rights and Egalitarianism', funded by a €1.3m ERC Consolidator grant.

The project, which aims to demonstrate that egalitarian policies are compatible with individual rights, strengthens the School commitment to growing its expertise in the field of ethics and values. *REAL* will open up new perspectives in moral and

political philosophy by closing the gap between analytical theories of rights and egalitarian theories of distributive justice.

**Before joining Trinity in August, Professor Preda was senior lecturer in political theory in the University of Limerick. Her primary research interests include the theories of rights, distributive justice, global justice, and justice in health.**

Read more: [bit.ly/new-philosophy-prof](http://bit.ly/new-philosophy-prof)

## Exhibition Explores Power of Political Caricature



William Elmes' *John Bull Reading the Extraordinary Red Book* London: Thomas Tegg, [1816]

Political Scientist and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Gail McElroy, recently co-curated an exhibition entitled 'Drawing your Attention: Four Centuries of Political Caricature' with Trinity's Library.

The exhibition, which included originals donated to the Library by alumnus Nicholas Robinson, highlighted six main themes in politics: Trade Relations, Gender Disparity, Political Reform, International Alliances, Politics and Law, and Political Treachery.

Commenting on the significance of the exhibition, Professor Gail McElroy said: "Strong cartoons challenge, provoke and confront the reader and shape political discussion. The ability to convey a message quickly and effectively, in an increasingly media-saturated world, is a key strength of the political caricature."

**Professor McElroy's primary research interests are in the fields of legislative behaviour, party politics, electoral systems and European Union politics.**

Read more: [bit.ly/cartoons-exhibition](http://bit.ly/cartoons-exhibition)



## The Grattan Scholars – Towards 2020



Established in 2012 to serve as a catalyst for attracting and inspiring the brightest and best postgraduate students from around the world, *The Grattan Scholars* programme has succeeded beyond all expectations.

The cohort now stands at 19 scholars from 13 countries, all of whom have made a huge contribution to academic life in Trinity, as talented researchers and inspirational teachers of undergraduate students. Their research which spans issues of major global societal and economic importance — such as migration, inequality, financial globalisation and international development — is more relevant than ever as society faces wide-ranging and interlinked global challenges. With graduates of the programme now pursuing careers in academia and policy making – at leading institutions such as Oxford University, the International Monetary Fund and the Central Bank of Ireland — they have fulfilled the vision of the programme to shape thought leaders for society's future.

Trinity College is greatly indebted to our generous supporters who have enabled us to sustain our tradition of research excellence, developing future leaders and influential voices for social and economic development. Next year, 2020, is the 200th anniversary of the death of the great Irish statesman, Henry Grattan, and our aim is to welcome our 20th Grattan Scholar in Trinity in his honour.

Read more: [bit.ly/grattan-scholars](http://bit.ly/grattan-scholars)

## New Head of Economics Department Explores the Deep Roots of the Irish Revolution

What drives individuals to become insurgents and how do negative shocks explain social unrest in the long-run? Associate Professor in Economics, Professor Gaia Narciso, has been examining these questions in a project on the Irish Revolution using historical data from the 1911 census and military archives. Her research examines how cultural values, modified by negative historical shocks, can explain conflicts. In particular, how the Irish Famine (1845–1850), one of the deadliest famines in history, changed political attitudes and contributed to the Irish Revolution (1913–1921).

Commenting on her research Professor Narciso said: *“Our research found that rebels were more likely to be male, young, Catholic and literate. Moreover, it provided evidence that individuals whose families had been most affected by the Irish famine were more likely to participate in the rebellion.”*

**Professor Narciso was appointed Head of the Department of Economics in July 2019. Her research focuses on Political Economy, Development Economics, Migration, and, more recently, Economic History.**

Read more: <http://bit.ly/narciso-irish-revolution>

## Alumni Interviews

### Lenny Abrahamson



**Mr Lenny Abrahamson**  
B.A. (1990) *Mental and Moral Science (Philosophy)*

*“It seems that truthfulness, clarity, expertise are being actively devalued by powerful movements in cultural and political discourse at present and it's vital to fight against this. Studying Philosophy - and the Humanities and Arts in general - is a mind opening and thought deepening experience which in itself is an affirmation of those aspects of culture so under attack.”*

Read the full interview here:  
[bit.ly/lenny-abrahamson](http://bit.ly/lenny-abrahamson)

### Míde Ní Ghríofa



**Ms Míde Ní Ghríofa, B.A. (2018)**  
*TSM Economics and German*

*“I have always felt supported by the academic community and their genuine interest in helping students, whether by setting up partnerships such as the TCD-OECD link, or putting you in touch with alumni who gladly offer their insights. They were supportive of students sitting schols, which transformed my college experience.”*

Read the full interview here:  
[bit.ly/mide-ni-ghriofa](http://bit.ly/mide-ni-ghriofa)

## Public Events Explore Key Issues for Society



Mr Carles Puigdemont, former Catalan president, with Trinity social scientists, Dr Emanuel Coman and Dr Marvin Suesse, consider independence, nationalism and democracy.

The School has a strong tradition of engaging with society, both through its policy relevant research and its public lectures which examine important real world questions.

### Independence, Nationalism and Democracy

Movements for independence have become an increasingly prominent feature on Europe's political landscape over recent years. In February, together with Trinity Research in Social Sciences (TRiSS), the School hosted a public lecture which examined fundamental issues on the right to self-determination in Europe, the challenges seceding nations face and their potential gains in terms of policy autonomy and political sovereignty. Read more: <http://bit.ly/democracy-independence>

### The Breakdown of Trust

In March, the School hosted a thought-provoking event entitled "The Breakdown of Trust in Society", where Trinity academics, with expertise in political institutions, ethics and health and well-being in societies, discussed what trust is and examined questions such as: Is trust in political institutions on the decline? How much does media bias affect electoral outcomes? How can we re-establish trust where it has been lost? Read more: <http://bit.ly/breakdown-of-trust>

### Immigration, Economic Development and Urbanisation

The Department of Economics hosted a public lecture series, with academics from some of the world's leading universities, which appealed to students, the wider College community and the public alike. Princeton academic Professor Leah Boustan explored the assimilation of immigrant populations in the United States, while Harvard academic Professor Nathan Nunn presented the many challenges faced in designing effective development policy. Fellow Harvardian Professor Edward Glaeser discussed the role that cities play in the world and the tremendous challenges that lie ahead for policy makers.

Read more: [bit.ly/economics-lectures](http://bit.ly/economics-lectures)

## Events 2019-20

### Henry Grattan Lecture

Embassy of Ireland, London  
19 November 2019

#### Speaker:

Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford

[tcd.ie/ssp/events/henry-grattan-lectures/](http://tcd.ie/ssp/events/henry-grattan-lectures/)

### TIME Keynote Lecture

Trinity College Dublin  
13 November 2019

#### Speaker:

Professor Pascaline Dupas, Department of Economics, Stanford University

[tcd.ie/time](http://tcd.ie/time)

## Public Lectures:

### Big Questions in Philosophy

Starts 21 January 2020

[tcd.ie/philosophy/events](http://tcd.ie/philosophy/events)

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## Inspiring Generations

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